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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 005925

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KPAL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [EG](#) [IS](#) [IR](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: ARAB SUMMIT: EGYPT CLEAR ON USG DESIRE FOR CLEAR  
AND SIMPLE DEFINITION OF TERRORISM

REF: STATE 141247 (NOTAL)

Classified by Charge Stuart Jones for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

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Summary  
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1. (C) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chef du Cabinet Sameh Shukry (the MFA's number two) told the Charge July 31 that Egypt understood the U.S. call for a simple and clear definition of terrorism and would factor this view into preparations for the planned August 3 extraordinary Arab Summit expected to take place in Sharm El Sheikh. Shukry said the GOE shared U.S. concerns with regard to Syrian actions on Lebanon and Syrian failure to take action against supporters of the Iraq insurgency using its territory. The Charge also raised the subject of an Egyptian invitation to the Government of Iraq, noting that the August 3 summit would serve as an opportunity for a bilateral meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Talabani. Shukry said he would make sure this suggestion was considered by the President, but he noted Egyptian public opinion was still "not sympathetic" to Iraq because of official statements in the wake of the Ihab Sherif murder. (Note: Arab Summit was subsequently postponed due to King Fahd's funeral) Arab League Secretariat Chief of Staff Hesham Youssef, said the Arab summit's formal agenda consisted of discussion of Palestine (post Gaza withdrawal), the situation in Iraq, and terrorism. Youssef committed to sharing the USG message with Moussa. End Summary.

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GOE to Press Arab Leaders on Clear, Simple Terrorism  
Definition  
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2. (C) The Charge delivered an oral message from the Secretary (reftel) July 31 to MFA Chef du Cabinet Ambassador

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Sameh Shukry, as the Foreign Minister was preparing to depart for Sharm El Sheikh. The Charge noted the importance of the summit and the necessity of achieving a satisfactory outcome. Focusing on support for a simple and clear definition of terrorism, the Charge called for Egypt's support in encouraging Arab leaders to accept such a definition during their meeting in Sharm. Shukry noted that the U.S. position was clear and that the GOE had instructed its mission in New York to be as cooperative as possible on this issue. Shukry, clearly not up to speed on discussions in New York, promised to ensure that our concerns on this topic were factored into summit planning.

3. (C) On Syria, Shukry said the Egyptian position to press Syria was consistent and that he had no doubt that President Mubarak would use the summit as another opportunity to deliver a firm message to Syrian President Asad. He assured the Charge that on both Syria's actions against Lebanon and its failure to act against those assisting the insurgency in Iraq, Egypt was doing a great deal. "We are advocating the same line," he said, while noting that the only difference between the GOE and the U.S. was our respective analyses on the extent to which Syria was attempting to take some actions.

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Invitations for Iraqi Leadership  
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4. (C) The Charge, following up on a message from the Deputy Secretary asking the Egyptians to host Iraqi leaders, asked

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if the Egyptians were considering hosting a bilateral meeting between President Mubarak and visiting President Talabani on the margins of the August 3 summit. Such a meeting was important to Iraq, the Charge noted, and would send a strong signal of support to the Iraqi government. Shukry promised to pass the message on to the Presidency but noted that there was still considerable "public heat" in Egypt over the abduction and murder of Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq Ihab Sherif. He said the public was not "prone to be sympathetic" to Iraq because of anger over Iraqi statements but noted that Egypt was taking into account the fact that this was a new Iraqi government "under enormous pressure."

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Arab League Response to Summit Demarche  
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15. (C) In the absence of Secretary General Amre Moussa, en route to Sharm El Sheikh, poloff delivered reftel demarche July 31 to Arab League Secretariat Chief of Staff Hesham Youssef. Youssef confirmed that the summit agenda would consist of discussion of the Gaza withdrawal aftermath, the "deteriorating" situation in Iraq, and terrorism. There was no agreement to discuss Syria/Lebanon or regional reform on the formal agenda, he said. Poloff stressed the importance of reaching a clear and simple definition of terrorism, as proposed by UN Secretary General Annan. Moussa's recent public comments in New York on the subject were positive and had indicated that agreement might be possible on UN Secretary General's Annan's proposed simplified language for

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an International Convention on Terrorism. Youssef avoided discussion of inner Arab politics on the topic, stating that "we have no differences with you on defining terrorism."

16. (C) Responding to other points of the U.S. demarche, Youssef said that Arab leaders would look to take a common position on next steps following Israel's disengagement from Gaza and part of the northern West Bank. The key, he said, is encouraging both sides to get back to the negotiating table and ensuring full implementation of the Roadmap. We are not looking to "reward" Israel for taking steps it should have taken long ago, he added, noting that movement on the MDA issue and encouragement of Arab ties with Israel were premature absent further progress with the Palestinians on key issues. These included a "full withdrawal" from Gaza (i.e., free passage to the West Bank, Palestinian control of Gaza ports) as well as addressing key issues such as the separation barrier, settlements, and Jerusalem. On Iraq, Youssef said "we basically agree," with the exception of a timeline for U.S. withdrawal. Our key concern, he added, is to address national reconciliation in Iraq, by which the terrorists will be isolated and eliminated. Continuation of present policies, he said, would create "a hundred more Bin Ladens." Poloff pushed back, arguing that Iraq's security needs were critical and that Arab support was needed to end the insurgency.

17. (SBU) Although the Arab Summit has now been postponed due to King Fahd's funeral, contacts at MFA are working toward new dates next week, but alligning leaders' schedules may pose a challenge. Post will use the additional time to reinforce these messages.

18. (U) Tripoli minimize considered.

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